

Concept Cartoons

Concept cartoons are useful for encouraging students to formulate explanations.

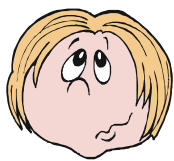
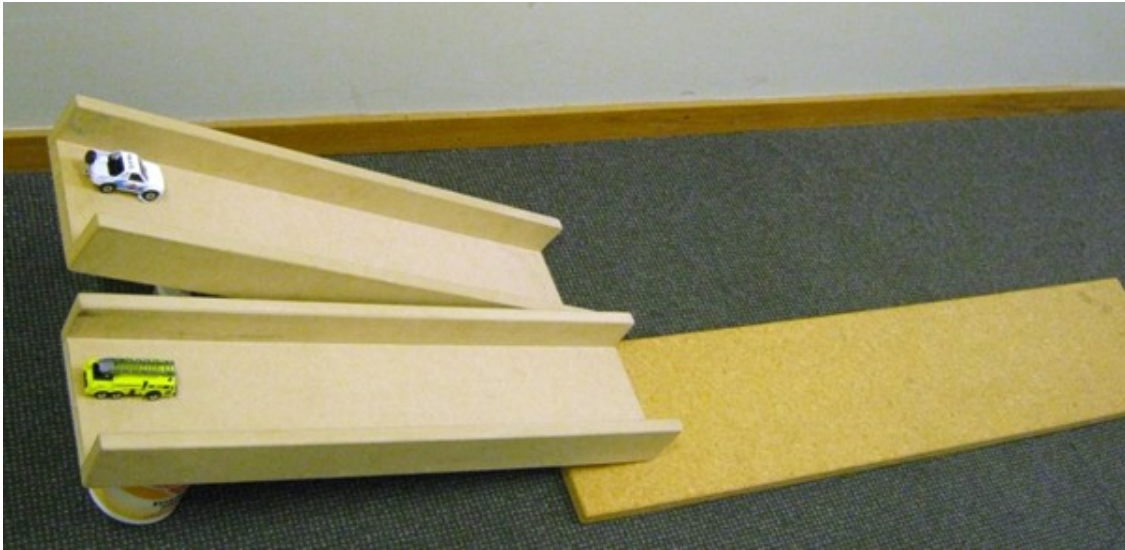
The different ideas presented in this concept cartoon are indicative of responses students made in the trials. If there is a common response in your class that you want to explore, either add it or replace one of the others. It is best not to have too many viewpoints to discuss – keep to five or less.

NOTE: In this concept cartoon none of the explanations are scientifically correct. If you want students to choose the **best** explanation, either add another statement or replace one of the others. (You could choose one from the student examples. Make sure the explanation is not too technical, as students will select it for the wrong reasons.)

What to do

- Present the concept cartoon to small groups or the class.
- Ask students to comment on each statement. This is particularly important for accessing their thinking processes, and for giving them practice in developing explanations.
- Encourage debate between students with different opinions.
- Get each group to then come up with their own explanation. These could then be shared and further refined by the whole class.
- Follow up discussions with students setting up investigations to explore their ideas. This could lead to further refinements of explanations.

Rolling cars



Sarah

The cars will stop because gravity is not acting on them when they get on the flat.



William

The cars will run out of speed.



Jessie

The cars will stop because there is no slope on the floor.



Cam

The cars will stop because they haven't got a motor.

What do you think?